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**CLOSED
UNTIL
1981**



1950

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EASTERN DEPARTMENT

EE. 18211/1.

PALESTINE

FROM Sir A Kirkbride
Amman

Movement of Arab Refugees from the Gaza
area to Hebron via - Israel.

No. 41. (S. 127/7/50).

Dated 9/5/50.

Received in
Registry— 15/5/50.

Encloses statements from various refugees
regarding ill-treatment received from the
Egyptians.

REFERENCES

(MINUTES)

Even allowing for a certain amount of
exaggeration in the statements made by individual
refugees, the picture of conditions in the Gaza
strip is a pretty grim one.

2. The key is undoubtedly the work problem.
In all four statements in the annex to this
despatch it is emphasised that work is literally
unobtainable in Gaza. It is thus inevitable that
refugees should wish to go to Jordan where odd
jobs, and even some regular employment, can be obtained.
This movement will increase as U.N.R.W.A. Works
Projects get under way in Jordan. In Gaza itself
there is practically no scope for Works Projects -
according to the Clapp Report a maximum of about
2,000 men might be given employment.

3. The only encouraging feature so far
is that there are indications that the ~~Jordan~~ Egyptian
authorities are toying with the idea of settling
some of the refugees in Sinai, particularly along
the coast - Please see attached draft letter to
Sir Henry Knight.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Draft to BEIRUT
(Sir Henry Knight)
24th May, 1950
Copies to CAIRO
B.M.E.O. 24th May
Amman
Tel Aviv

African Department
Eastern Department

(T.E. Evans)

19th May, 1950.

(Action
completed)

(Index)

Am
24/5

6. 17



British Legation,

Amman

E

DESPATCH No.41✓

9th May 1950

S.127/7/50

Unclassified

E.18211/1

Sir,

I have the honour to report that relatively large numbers of refugees are making their way by night, across Israeli territory, from the Gaza area to Hebron.

Enc...

2. The enclosed statements taken from some of the members of a party of about 150 persons who recently made this journey are of interest. The reports about the treatment accorded by Egyptian personnel to Palestinians which these people circulate in Jordan is having a considerable effect on public opinion and has done much to popularise the union of Jordan.

On the other hand, these additions to the overwhelming burden of refugees now carried by Jordan cannot be regarded as economically desirable.

3. It is interesting that large parties of persons can move across Israel at night without meeting with any Israeli patrols. I gather that convoys of contraband goods and narcotics move in the opposite direction from Hebron to Gaza with Egypt as the ultimate destination of the goods.

4. I am sending copies of this despatch to His Majesty's Representatives at Cairo and Tel Aviv and to the British Middle East Office.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant.

The Right Honourable
K. Younger, M.P.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

Statements taken from Refugees
from Gaza area

JAWAD SUBHI EL JAMAL - originally from Jaffa. Moslem. Blacksmith, 20 years of age. He arrived from the refugees camp in Rafah.

At 11.15 hours on the 13th April 1950 the man was brought to the Jerusalem C.I.D. office where he was interrogated. He stated as follows:

"When Jaffa was captured by the Jews, I fled to Lydda and remained there till the time when the latter town also was taken by the Jews. From Lydda I left for Jericho and after two months, during which I could secure no work, I understood that my aunt Fatma Ahmad el. Jamal was at Rafah and decided to proceed there. I travelled to Hebron, Falluja, Majdal, Gaza and finally arrived at Rafah. I stayed until about eleven days ago when I left for Amman to look for a job."

In reply to a question he said no works whatsoever are available at Gaza and Rafah, and the rations distributed are insufficient.

To another question he replied: was it not due to the dangers of travel there would remain there not a single person. "In spite of the great danger encountering the groups leaving Gaza for Hebron, people continue to travel to Hebron in big numbers. The proof is that I did so together with about 155 persons between man, woman and child. This is due to the bad treatment on the part of the Egyptian army who treat Palestinians as if there were enemies - even an enemy would be kinder to his enemy. Hatred of the Egyptians increased when they ascertained that the refugees are in favour of the union between Eastern Palestine and Jordan."

To another question he replied that Egyptians would not allow anyone to leave for Jordan. They issued instructions to the effect that whoever tried to leave would be shot. "One day we formed a caravan and got ready to leave when the Egyptians discovered the fact. They asked whether we intended proceeding to Amman, but would not believe when we replied in the negative. So they took about forty of us to the office, laid everyone of us on the ground and continued beating us until we got unconscious".

To another question he replied saying "sure and great dangers are awaited on the way, in spite of which people prefer to be met by the Jews rather than by the Egyptians. The economical situation is extremely bad, commodities are very high and sale and purchase are paralysed due to lack of works".

ALI AHMAD MUGHRABI, from Salama village. Moslem. Foundry labourer aged 18 years. Arrived from Ibzej refugees camp.

He stated: "When the Jews captured Salama, I left for Lydda where I stayed until the latter town was also taken by the Jews. I was taken a prisoner of war from Lydda but was released with others at Jerusalem about a year ago. My family were staying at Gaza so I proceeded there via Hebron. Five days ago I returned to Amman in order to seek employment and cash my prisoner of war pay. I was one of a caravan numbering approximately 150 between man, woman and child. The reason why people leave Gaza is because of the lack of works in addition to the insufficient rations supplied. People continue leaving the area and was it not due to the dangers of travel there would remain there not a single person. Although I came from Morocco originally, my application for permission to return to my native country was refused. The Egyptians would not allow anyone to leave the area and whoever is arrested while intending leaving will be beaten to death and imprisoned. Members of the Egyptian Army treat Palestinians very badly; without proof /they

they charge people with spying and after unmerciful beating throw them in prisons."

IBRAHIM ABED ATTYA KABAL from Jaffa. Moslem. Butcher, aged 21 years. Arrived from Ibreibj refugee camp.

He stated as follows:-

"Four days prior to the capture of Jaffa by the Jews I left to Gaza and stayed at Ibreibj camp. Six days ago I returned here to seek employment. The group with whom I travelled consisted of approximately 150 persons. The situation in Gaza is extremely bad. Work is unobtainable and rations supplied are insufficient. Labour required by the Egyptian Army is brought from Egypt and they pay them little wages not exceeding 150 mils per day. Egyptian Army treats the Palestinians badly and the words of respect and appreciation are not found in its dictionary. For trivial reasons an Egyptian soldier will beat to death anyone. I will quote one example. Having decided to return to this country, I called on the responsible official to whom I applied for the necessary permission. Without saying any single word he assailed me with blows, saying 'Why do you want to leave? Does this country not suit you?'"

JUMA' YOUSIF ZUOR from Beni Isheila, Moslem, 19 years of age, arrived from Gaza.

He stated as follows:

"When the Jews took over Jaffa, I left for Gaza. A few days ago I returned here on my way to Amman, in order to seek employment, since in Gaza there are no works and the rations distributed do not suffice. The Egyptian Army charge the people with spying. They beat them unmercifully and throw them in prisons. People wish to leave Gaza at any rate even at the cost of their lives. I assure you that within a short time all the refugees will return here owing to the reasons stated above and the bad treatment on the part of the Egyptians. The caravan I came with consisted of 150 people between man, woman and child."

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(EE 18211/1)
CONFIDENTIAL

24th May, 1950.

My dear Sir Henry,

You will remember that when we had lunch with Amr Pasha he mentioned that the Egyptian authorities were considering the possibility of settling some of the refugees from the Gaza strip in Sinai. We have since had a further indication that this is so. Stevenson, the American Friends representative in the Middle East called on us on the way to the United States, and said that the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom he had seen recently, had spoken in general terms of resettling a number of refugees in Sinai, particularly along the coastal strip.

We hope that the Agency will lose no opportunity of encouraging the Egyptian authorities in this direction, and even of assisting them by undertaking works projects in the area. There has already been a considerable movement of refugees from Gaza (where work is at present unobtainable, and the possibility of works projects extremely limited) to Jordan - please see the attached copy of Despatch No. 41 from Amman. This movement will inevitably increase as works projects get under way in Jordan, and Jordan's already overwhelming difficulties will be added to.

If anything comes of this Sinai project, it would of course be very useful to the Agency to have the services of Hammersley, who as you know, would welcome an opportunity of working with Agency.

I am sending copies of this letter (without the enclosure) to the Chanceries at Cairo, Amman, Tel Aviv, and British Middle East Office.

Yours ever,

T.R. Evans

Mr Henry Knight, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.,
British Legation,
Beirut.

Registry
No. EQ18211/1

TOP SECRET.
SECRET.
CONFIDENTIAL.
RESTRICTED.
OPEN.

Draft letter to
Sir Henry Knight
British Legation,
Beirut.

from whom ??

Copy to:

Oairo
BUEO
R-
Tel Aviv.

lit. 10/5
african zone
17/5

RECEIVED IN DIVISION	
23 MAY 1950	
SENT TO TYPE	
DESPATCHED	

Bof 26/5 pc
J.M.

May, 1950.

6 copies please

23
5
24
12

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/you

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

know, would welcome an opportunity of working
with the Agency.

I am sending copies of this letter (without
the enclosure#) to the Chancery² at Cairo,
Amman, and Tel Aviv. 2 B7E0.

M 23/1

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(EE 18211/1)
CONFIDENTIAL

24th May, 1950.

You will remember that when we had lunch with Amr Pasha he mentioned that the Egyptian authorities were considering the possibility of settling some of the refugees from the Gaza strip in Sinai. We have since had a further indication that this is so. Stevenson, the American Friends representative in the Middle East called on us on the way to the United States, and said that the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom he had seen recently, had spoken in general terms of resettling a number of refugees in Sinai, particularly along the coastal strip.

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If anything comes of this Sinai project, it would of course be very useful to the Agency to have the services of Hammersley, who as you know, would welcome an opportunity of working with Agency.

I am sending copies of this letter (without the enclosure) to the Chanceries at Cairo, Amman, Tel Aviv, and British Middle East Office.

Sir Henry Knight,
British Legation,
Beirut.

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

E

E. 18211/2.

PALESTINE

FROM

Chancery
TEL AVIV
to E Dept

No.

1821/33/50.

Dated

26/5/50.

Received in
Registry—

31/5/50.

Observes that the movement of Arab
Refugees from Gaza to Hebron across
Israel, has been noticed by the Israelis
but no action taken and that authorised
movement under international auspices may
be allowed
Copied / Cairo, Amman, and BMEQ

REFERENCES

EE. 18211/1.

(MINUTES)

Eastern Dept. 6/6 3/6.
African Dept. 6/6

C. Watkinson
2/6.
3/6

In papers (A) Extract from the 'SPECTATOR'
of the 16th June.

27/6

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action
completed)

(Index)

24.3/11.

1/11



British Legation,
Tel Aviv.

(1821/33/50)

26th May, 1950.

Confidential.

EE. 1821/2

Dear Department,

In paragraph 3 of Amman despatch No. 41 of May 9th it was suggested that the passage of large parties of Arab refugees from the Gaza area to Hebron across Israel territory was taking place without observation by Israel patrols.

2. Actually, the Israelis are perfectly aware of what has been happening. For one thing, Arab publicity has been echoed in the Israel press. On the 16th April several Israel newspapers reported that according to a broadcast from the Ramallah radio station a large group of Arabs (numbering 135 or 150) had crossed by this route, travelling by night and hiding by day: their journey was said to have lasted five days and to have been undertaken owing to Egyptian terrorism. One paper also quoted the Arabic newspaper "Ad-Difa'a" to the effect that in the past week two other caravans of 130 persons had arrived in Hebron. But apart from this, there is reason to believe that the passage of such large convoys was actually observed at the time by the Israel authorities, who preferred to turn the blind eye.

3. Patrols are on the look-out for marauders, infiltrators and smugglers and are often engaged in clashes with them in the Negev. Small parties may occasionally get through, but large caravans of men, women and children on the trek for several days are hardly likely to escape notice. Certain caves outside Faluja are pointed to as the place where the migrating Arabs spend their first day in hiding before moving on the next night. It is suggested here that Radio Ramallah broadcast news of this traffic in order to provoke the Israelis to take steps to put a stop to it, since the number of refugees arriving had become so great as to be embarrassing to the Jordan authorities. According to a usually reliable source, several thousand persons have already crossed over.

4. Last October an arrangement was made between Israel, Jordan and Egypt for the passage of displaced Arab civilians from Gaza to Hebron and vice versa through Israel territory. As a result, at least one large convoy of lorries was driven through each way in November-December. There is no reason to think that Israel would object in principle to this occasionally happening under international auspices.

5. We are copying this letter to Cairo, Amman and the British Middle East Office.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
31 MAY 1950
SENT TO DEPT.

British Legation,
Tel Aviv.
25th May, 1950.

(1821/32/50)

Confidential.

2/10/50

Dear Department,

In paragraph 3 of my letter dated 10.4.50, I suggested that the passage of large parties of Arab refugees from the Golan area to Hebron across Israel territory was taking place under observation by Israeli patrols.

2. Not only the Israelis are perfectly aware of what has been happening. For one thing, Arab publicity has been echoed in the Israeli press. On the 10th April several Israeli newspapers reported that according to a broadcast from the Hamat radio station a large group of Arabs (numbering 150 or 160) had crossed by this route, travelling by night and hiding by day. Their journey was said to have lasted five days and to have been undertaken owing to Jewish terrorism. One paper also quoted the Arabic newspaper "Ad-Difa'a" to the effect that in the past week two other caravans of 150 persons had arrived in Hebron. But apart from this, there is reason to believe that the passage of such large convoys was actually observed at the time by the Israeli authorities, who pretended to turn the blind eye.

3. Patrols are on the look-out for caravans, infiltrators and smugglers and are often engaged in clashes with them in the Negev. Small parties may occasionally get through, but large caravans of men, women and children on the trek for several days are hardly likely to escape notice. Certain caves outside Haifa are pointed to as the place where the migrating Arabs spend their night day in hiding before moving on the next night. It is suggested here that Radio Hamat broadcast news of this traffic in order to provoke the Israelis to take steps to put a stop to it, since the number of refugees arriving had become so great as to be embarrassing to the Jordan authorities. According to a usually reliable source, several thousand persons have already crossed over.

4. Last October an arrangement was made between Israel, Jordan and Egypt for the passage of displaced Arab civilians from Gaza to Hebron and vice versa through Israel territory. As a result, at least one large convoy of 10,000 was driven through each way in November-December. There is no reason to think that Israel would object in principle to this occasionally happening under international auspices.

5. We are copying this letter to Cairo, Amman and the British High Commission.

Yours over,

CHURCHILL

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

E E 18211/2

Minutes.

SPECTATOR.

16 JUN 1950

Cutting dated.....194

Illegal Immigration

Ever since the fighting in Palestine stopped there has been a steady trickle of Arab refugees crossing the frontier between Jordan and Israel in the endeavour to return to their own homes. So persistent has been this flow that in the past year the Arab population of Israel has, it is estimated, more than doubled, and is now perhaps as high as 200,000. These returning refugees are not welcomed by the Israeli Government, and in the past week a good deal has been heard of some of the more unsavoury means which are being used to head them off. It is now known that a large party of Arabs who had slipped across the frontier were rounded up by Israeli officials and driven in trucks to the southern wilderness, where they were discharged in the desolate region of the Wadi Araba. Many of them died of hunger and thirst, and survivors allege that in the course of their expulsion violence and even torture were used on them. Unfortunately, there is no reason to suppose that these stories are untrue. The Israeli frontier force has for some time been doing its best to check clandestine movement across the frontier, and apparently believes that terrorism is the most effective deterrent. It would be reassuring to learn that these activities were carried out without the knowledge or approval of the Israeli Government, but in the absence of any denial the presumption is that the policy of violent expulsion is an official one. It ought to be unnecessary to convince the leaders of Israel that it is impossible to prevent the "illegal" immigration of desperate refugees who are trying to reach what they believe to be their rightful home. All the moral and political arguments in favour of "illegal" immigration are to be found in their own speeches and writings during the last ten years of the mandate. No harm would be done if Mr. Ben Gurion re-read some of them today.

Other newspaper cuttings appear on EE 1091 file regarding frontier incidents.

1950

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

EE 18211/6.

PALESTINE

FROM Alexandria
Chancery.

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 1821/24/50

Dated 8th August

Received in
Registry—14th August.

- 1) Kaushti Shawa Bey, Mayor of Gaza, called for his O.B.E. warrant
- 2) Situation of refugees in Gaza, food, nationality, and Egyptian treatment.

Copied, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and B.M.E.O.

REFERENCES

MINUTES

This is interesting & important.

~~E Dept~~

~~African Dept~~

22/iii

Copy to Amman.

Ch Watawa

Copy should also go to Amman! 17/8

21/8.

ew 24/8.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

6000) Amman chancery
29th Aug.

(Action
completed)

29/8

(Index)

29/8



BRITISH EMBASSY,
ALEXANDRIA.

No. 1821/24/50.

8th August, 1950.

CONFIDENTIAL.

EE/18211/6.

Dear Department,

On August 4th Roushdi Shawa Bey, the Mayor of Gaza, called on this Embassy to collect the Warrant for his O.B.E. In conversation with Mr. Barclay about conditions in Gaza he expressed his anxiety about the future, giving a most alarming account of the numbers of refugees in the Gaza area and their conditions. Their main diet at the moment was melon and cucumbers, bread being the most important scarcity. He said that the one thing people wanted now was some kind of settlement of their national status. He himself, the local officials, and, he felt, 90% of the local population and refugees would express their first preference for the area to be incorporated in some way with Transjordan. If this were impossible then let it be incorporated with Egypt, but Roushdi Shawa made it very clear that he considered this to be a very poor second best. There were four or five Egyptian officials in Gaza whom he found pretty hopeless to deal with. He had come down here to seek the assistance of the Egyptian Government in a number of matters. He had seen Azzam Pasha, Nosrat Bey, and Haidar Pasha, and none of them had been of any help to him at all.

2. He said that the Egyptian Army had greatly decreased in the frontiers and Gaza area but that there were very strong Jewish forces on the Israel side of the frontier.

3. Shawa Bey also said that the so-called All-Palestine Arab Government, the Mufti and company, had no support in the Gaza area at all, and were hardly ever mentioned.

4. We are sending copies of this letter to the Chanceries at Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and to the British Middle East Office.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY. *Wm.*

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED W.C.B.
14 AUG 1950
SENT TO DEPT.
17 AUG 1950



14801/1

Dear Sir,

On August 14, 1950, I was in the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, and had a long conversation with Mr. [Name] of the U.S. State Department. He expressed his interest in the situation in Egypt and the need for a more active role for the U.S. in the Middle East. He mentioned that the U.S. had been very active in the past, but that it had been necessary to pull back in recent years. He said that the U.S. was now in a position to do more, and that it was important to have a clear understanding of the situation in the Middle East. He mentioned that the U.S. was now in a position to do more, and that it was important to have a clear understanding of the situation in the Middle East. He mentioned that the U.S. was now in a position to do more, and that it was important to have a clear understanding of the situation in the Middle East.

I am sure that you will find this information of interest. I am sure that you will find this information of interest. I am sure that you will find this information of interest.

I am sure that you will find this information of interest. I am sure that you will find this information of interest. I am sure that you will find this information of interest.

I am sure that you will find this information of interest. I am sure that you will find this information of interest. I am sure that you will find this information of interest.

Yours very truly,

W.C.B.
14801/1

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

E

EE 18211/3

1950

PALESTINE

FROM BEIRUT
(Sir H. Knight)
to
W. Evans

No. 8/4/50

Dated 5th June

Received in
Registry— 12th June

Settlement of Palestinian Refugees
from GAZA in SINAI.

Egyptian policy. Views of Sir H.
Knight.

REFERENCES

EE 1825/122

EE 18211/1

(MINUTES)

^{Pasha}
Hammersley, who called here the other day, gave me some particulars of a development scheme in Sinai submitted and approved while he was Governor of the Province. £100,000 were in fact voted for the purpose in 1946. The scheme involved the construction of a dam in the Wadi Arish (which has a catchment area of 10,000 square miles) at a place called Daqia, the site of an old Roman dam, and ~~would~~ have resulted in the development of some 200,000 acres of good land. These figures were quoted by Hammersley Pasha from memory, but he said he was quite sure of his facts. Perhaps Research Department have some information regarding the scheme?

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Letter to Sir Henry Knight
Bagdad 12th June

2. I do not know how well founded are Sir Henry Knight's fears that the Egyptian Government may wish to hold the Gaza refugees as a bargaining counter in peace negotiations. The suggestion that something might be done for the refugees in Sinai came from the Egyptians themselves, and the problem is how to get the Egyptians to revert to this tentative suggestion and to translate it into a more positive form. There is a danger, as Sir Herbert Stewart points out, that if the matter is raised directly with the Egyptians they would reply that preference had to be given to the Egyptian cultivators. The suggestion in paragraph 3 of the present letter that the question should be linked with our Treaty negotiations would seem clearly to be a non-starter. I am afraid we can only await the result of contacts between the Agency and the Egyptian Refugee Committee.

(Action completed)

(Index)

25/7

1/8

* It certainly is a non-starter, I'm afraid.
(T.E. Evans)
24th June, 1950.
Research Dept.

38068

R. E. Edwards

27/6

Surly the only

way to arouse Egyptian activity in such a
project would be to give them some hope that
they might obtain Point Four funds to start it.
We are curious, though, that they do not appear
to have made any suggestion (so far as I recall)
to the Clay Commission about the Wadi el
Arish. We have no record of the scheme here.

K.C. 6395

8/6.

Drop letter to Sir H. Knapton.

African Dept. 2/27 1945
(Mr. G. G. G. G.)

See EE 1924/5.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE

Evans
E
BRITISH LEGATION,
BEIRUT.

(8/4/50)

June 5th, 1950.

EE18211/3

My dear Evans,

With reference to your letter EE 18211/1 of the 24th May regarding the possibility of settling Palestinian Refugees from the Gaza Strip in Sinai, I have as yet not been able to gather any further information about this. I asked Stewart, who said that he was pretty sure that, if we mentioned it to the Egyptians, the reply would be that preference had to be given to the Egyptian cultivator.

However, when I can find out how the new Egyptian Higher Committee for the Palestine Refugees, which I mentioned in my letter No.7 of May 30th last, will serve as an agency of liaison with us, we may be able to consult them.

The Gaza Strip is providing a worse problem than ever now, and Egypt, I fear, may wish to continue the policy of holding the Gaza refugees as a bargaining counter in peace negotiations. I suppose it would not be possible to insist on Egypt taking a reasonable attitude over the Gaza Refugees as a condition of any treaty the United Kingdom may arrange with Egypt?

EE18211/3
122

As yet I have no official intimation of this Egyptian Higher Committee but as soon as I get any we shall probably have a talk with it.

Trefor Evans, Esq., O.B.E.,
Foreign Office.

[Signature]
H. Wright



Land in area

10,000 square kilometers

Daan Dagbaj (Kamau)

200,000 acres good land

lost 210,000 ~~acres~~

money value 1946

Registry

No. EE 18311/3

~~Top Secret~~
~~Secret~~
Confidential.
~~XXXXXX~~
~~Restricted~~
~~Open~~

Draft. letter

Sir Henry Knight.
British Legation
Beirut

OUTFILE

Your letter 8/4/50 of the 5th June
regarding the resettlement of Palestinian
refugees ^{from} ~~for~~ the Gaza strip in Sinai.

We were glad to see from your last report
(No. 14) that the Egyptian Government
are now prepared to go ahead with ~~the~~ works
project in Gaza and Sinai.

You may be interested to know that when
Hamersley was here the other day he gave us some
particulars of a development scheme in Sinai
submitted and approved when he was Governor
of the province. He said that £100,000 was
in fact voted for the purpose in 1946. The
scheme involved the construction of a dam in
the Waddi Arish (which ^{he said} ~~has~~ ^{is} catchment area of
10,000 square miles) at a place called Daqiqa
on the site of an old Roman dam, and would have
resulted in the development of some 200,000 acres
of good land. These figures were quoted by
Hamersely from memory but he said he was quite
sure of them. We have no information here
as to whether the project was proceeded with.

I am sure you will bear in mind that the
services of Hamersely ^{would} ~~will~~ probably be of great
value to the Agency, if ~~and~~ when they decide to
go ahead with projects in Sinai.

I am ~~am~~ afraid that there is absolutely no
chance of our raising the question of Gaza
Refugees in any treaty revision talks with the
Egyptians. But fortunately the Egyptians ^{seem} ~~are~~
^{to be} proving co-operative without ^{direct} ~~pressure~~ ^{from us}.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(EE 18211/3)

21st July, 1950

CONFIDENTIAL

Your letter 8/4/50 of the 5th June regarding the resettlement of Palestinian refugees from the Gaza strip in Sinai.

We were glad to see from your last report (No. 14) that the Egyptian Government are now prepared to go ahead with works project in Gaza and Sinai.

You may be interested to know that when Hamersley was here the other day he gave us some particulars of a development scheme in Sinai submitted and approved when he was Governor of the province. He said that £100,000 was in fact voted for the purpose in 1946. The scheme involved the construction of a dam in the Wadi Arish (which he said has a catchment area of 10,000 square miles) at a place called Daqiga on the site of an old Roman dam, and would have resulted in the development of some 200,000 acres of good land. These figures were quoted by Hamersley from memory but he said he was quite sure of them. We have no information here as to whether the project was proceeded with.

I am sure you will bear in mind that the services of Hamersley would probably be of great value to the Agency, if and when they decide to go ahead with projects in Sinai.

I am afraid that there is absolutely no chance of our raising the question of Gaza Refugees in any treaty revision talks with the Egyptians. But fortunately the Egyptians seem to be proving co-operative without direct pressure from us.

(T. E. Evans)

Sir Henry Knight, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
BEIRUT

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

EE 18211/4

0561

FROM JERUSALEM
Consulate General
to
Eastern Dept

No. 51/7/50
Dated 7th June
Received in
Registry— 26th June

Attack on convoy of 22 persons
arriving in Gaza from Hebron

(Copied to Amman & Tel Aviv)

REFERENCES

(MINUTES)

[Signature]
28/6.

Amman Report. 28/6/50

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action
completed)

(Index)



EE 182114

E

British Consulate General,
Jerusalem.

(51/7/50)

7th June, 1950.

Dear Eastern Department,

Please refer to para 3 of Amman Monthly
Situation Report for May.

The DIFA'A of 6th June gives an account
of the tribulations of these people, of which the
following is a summary:

"A convoy of 22 persons arrived in
Hebron yesterday from Gaza. Near Beer-
sheba they were attacked by Bedouin of
the Suleiman al Hazzil tribe and robbed
and surrendered to the Israeli
authorities. The latter detained Daoud
Abdul Hamid of Lydda, aged 25, put the
others into military cars and drove them
to near Dahriya village from whence they
were taken by the police to Hebron."

It would appear that their brother
Arabs are their worst enemies.

Incidentally, a number of refugees
have been returning to this area by aeroplane
from Egypt.

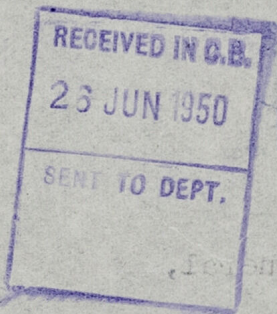
We are sending copies of this letter to
Amman and Tel Aviv.

Yours ever,

Jerusalem Consulate General.

M

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London S.W. 1.



E 182114



British Consulate General,

Jerusalem.

(11/10/50)

7th June, 1950.

Dear Eastern Department,

Please refer to para 3 of Annual Monthly
Situation Report for May.

The DPA/A of 6th June gives an account
of the tribulations of these people, of which the
following is a summary:

"A convoy of 22 persons arrived in
Hebron yesterday from Gaza. Near Beer-
sheva they were attacked by Bedouin of
the Ghilman el Hazal tribe and robbed
and surrendered to the Israeli
authorities. The latter detained David
Abd al Hamid al Lyda, aged 35, but the
others into military cars and drove them
to near Dahr al Yawd from whence they
were taken by the police to Hebron."

It would appear that their brother

Arabs are their worst enemies.

Incidentally, a number of refugees
have been returning to this area by aeroplane
from Egypt.

We are sending copies of this letter to
Amman and Tel Aviv.

Yours ever,

Jerusalem Consulate General.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

EE 18211/5

PALESTINE

FROM

BEIRUT

Sir H. Knight

UNRWA

No. AC 2017/50

Dated 25th July

Received in Registry— 3rd August

1) Employment by Egypt
of refugees in SINAI
~~especially~~ 2) HAMMERSLEY

REFERENCES

EE 18211/3

MINUTES

Apr. 2nd Rept. to sec. ^{Re. 3 min}

CW 3/8

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dft. Sir H. Knight. Beirut
from Miss Waterlow 17th Aug.
(Enclos)

(Action
completed)

(Index)

BW
8/8

1/20/9

CS 18222/1 (51)

Enter

Office of the United Kingdom Delegate
Advisory Commission, UNRWAPR.
C/o British Legation,
Beirut.

E

(AC 20/7/50)
Confidential

25th July, 1950.

EE 18211/3

E 18211/5

My dear Evans

Your letter EE 18211/3 of the
21st July regarding Hamersley.

I shall know better how far
Egypt is serious over employing refugees
in Sinai when Kennedy returns from his
present visit to Cairo.

I had already suggested Hamersley
to Kennedy in this connexion, but in view
of the number of British ex-officials we
have had to take on, I could not press for
Hamersley. In any case we should have to see
whether he would be a "persona grata" to
Egypt.

I am sorry that we cannot use Gaza
in connexion with the Treaty with Egypt.

I hope to see Stevenson on the 28th
for a flying visit.

Wm
H.F.Knight

(H.F.Knight)

T.E. Evans, Esq., O.B.E.,
Foreign Office.

Office of the United Kingdom Delegate
Advisory Commission, British Legation,
Bellevue

RECEIVED IN C.B.
31 JUL 1950

SENT TO DEPT. OF STATE
25th July, 1950

(M. 207/50)
Confidential

1821/2

Your letter of 18th July is received.
I am sorry that we cannot use this
in connexion with the Treaty with Egypt.

I shall know better how far
Egypt is capable of carrying out
its obligations towards the British
Government. In any case we should have to see
whether he would be a "persona grata" to
the Egyptian Government.
I had already suggested Kennedy
to Kennedy in this connexion, but in view
of the number of British ex-officials we
have had to take on, I could not suggest
Kennedy. In any case we should have to see
whether he would be a "persona grata" to
the Egyptian Government.

I am sorry that we cannot use this
in connexion with the Treaty with Egypt.
I hope to see Stevenson on the 28th
for a flying visit.

(M. 207/50)

Foreign Office
25th July, 1950

(EE.18211/5)

CONFIDENTIAL.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

17th August, 1950.

OUTFILE

.. With reference to your letter AC20/7/50 of July 25th to Mr. Evans, and to paragraph 4 of your letter No.17 of August 1st, I now enclose two copies of a paper by Colonel Hamersley on the possibilities of developing the Wadi Arish, General Kennedy will no doubt pass this paper on to the Egyptian Authorities if you and he see fit.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to the British Middle East Office for information.

(Miss C. Waterlow).

Sir Henry Knight, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.,
C/o. British Legation,
BEIRUT.

SINAI - THE POSSIBILITIES OF REHABILITATION OF ARAB REFUGEES
NUMEROUS DOMESTIC CONSEQUENCES ON THE ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE -
1948 EL SAS.

(By Col. A.H. St. G. Hammersley Pasha, M.C. late Governor of Sinai).

1. Introductory. Sinai, a province of Egypt, is usually considered as a barren country of desert and wilderness, and of little value to the economy of Egypt from an agricultural point of view.

It would appear from remains to be found in various parts of the province that in early times considerable agricultural development was resorted to - particularly during the Roman occupation.

Evidence goes to show that the Northern littoral between Port Said and El Arish carried a considerable population. The ruins of large settlements along this coast indicate a heavy traffic along that ancient trade-route known as the Darb-es-Sultan.

These settlements were undoubtedly stages on the trade route from the East to Egypt and provided facilities for caravans engaged in trade, and were dependant on the levies obtained from merchants.

But if one looks carefully into the country between these settlements, evidence of considerable agricultural activity is to be found in the form of dykes, ditches and irrigation canals.

The encroachment of wind driven sand along this coast has covered most of this once fertile belt with dunes of varying heights. These parts as yet not covered with sand have gone sour through the ages owing to the dunes preventing drainage and are of no value now.

That part of the northern littoral between El Arish and Rafa has not been so badly effected by the encroachment of sand and efforts to check the dunes moving inland were initiated during my governorship by planting trees - chiefly tamarisk - along the coastal fringe. This afforestation, carried out on a large scale has no doubt benefited the cultivable lands lying to the south of the coastal sand dunes, and if pursued and enlarged will save many valuable acres of good land eminently suitable for the cultivation of barley and wheat, fruit and vegetables.

/Turning

Turning now to the possibilities of development in the interior of Sinai, evidence goes to show that in ancient times much thought was devoted to agriculture in certain areas in the rain catchment area generally known as the Wadi El Arish. The possibilities of developing these areas will be dealt with in detail later in this paper. Suffice it to say that many thousands of valuable acres could be cultivated given the stimulus of governmental backing and the necessary funds to establish dams, conduits and walls.

During my governorship I was particularly interested in such development, but the necessary backing was not forthcoming from Cairo until 1944 when interest was taken by the Government in Sinai from several points of view - agriculture being one of them.

In that year funds were voted for survey work and the working out of levels in a scheme which embraced the harnessing of the flood waters of the Wadi El Arish at two points. This work was initiated at a slow tempo by surveyors sent up from Cairo by the Ministry of Public Works. Survey work continued throughout 1945 and it was not until about the end of 1946 that serious effort was made to bring the scheme a step further and commence construction of dams.

The initial scheme was to construct dams on the ancient Roman sites of El Deiga and Buqfa and irrigate the lands below these dams in the basin of the Wadi El Arish by a series of conduits.

The exact stage which these developments have reached is not accurately known, but it is known that the Buqfa dam was reconstructed and filled in 1947 and that work had been put in hand on the Deiga dam.

If these works have been pursued as was originally envisaged it is probable that the lands lying down river, and all the way to the coast, could be brought under intensive cultivation at an early date.

It was never contemplated that the cultivation of these lands should depend solely on irrigation from the waters held back by these dams, but by a combination of such irrigation coupled with the normal annual rainfall of about 8 inches per annum which occurs between November and March in the form of heavy storms. In good years these lands produce heavy crops in isolated patches solely from rainfall and the soil is fertile.

Further south of Deiga and up the valley of the Wadi El Arish and its tributaries, there are several areas fit for cultivation and the normal procedure adopted by the Arabs is to erect temporary dams of brushwood and mud which divert floods from the main Wadi bed and irrigate plots of land in the neighbourhood through channels cut for the purpose. These dams are invariably washed away after a prolonged and heavy flood but they achieve their purpose by giving the land one good soaking which is enough - coupled with the rainfall - to grow a good crop of barley or wheat.

Such temporary dams are not rebuilt during the rainy season for a second flooding of the land, but are reconstructed during the summer months at leisure.

There are however, two sites on which semi-permanent dams have been in existence for some years and have proved successful. These dams were maintained by families from El Arish who, in return for their efforts, exacted a fee of 25% of the value of the crops grown by those who benefited by this annual flooding of their lands - a not unreasonable return for moneys well spent.

There are many areas along the line of the Wadi El Arish and its tributaries where such semi-permanent dams could be sited and which would provide irrigation for lands which up till now have little used. Dams of a permanent nature could not be constructed at other places than El Deiga and El Ruafa which, owing to the narrowness of the valley, lend themselves to such construction.

In other sites, where water is required to be diverted from the Wadi bed on to the land, the valley is wide and flat, and the actual watercourse is liable to change after a heavy flood. In such places it would be better to erect concrete walls at intervals across the water course, in the required

/direction...

direction, and to fill in these intervals with brushwood and mud as and when required. When not required, these gaps would provide a spillway for surplus waters and for prevention of silting.

When late rains occur - March and April - the Arabs secure a good summer crop of maize and watermelons. Dams at selected sites along the Wadi El Arish would ensure such crops irrespective of whether there were late rains or not.

I have personally inspected and studied all likely localities along the whole course of the Wadi El Arish and all its main tributaries and am convinced that, given adequate funds, a very considerable acreage of land could be usefully brought under control for the settlement of surplus populations. My surveys were carried out originally in the middle thirties before Jewish enterprise was considering similar projects in the Negev - a country where the same characteristics maintain. It is understood that these Jewish efforts have not met with complete success.

When considering the possibilities of harnessing the flood waters of the Wadi El Arish for agricultural purposes, one must keep in mind the necessity of obtaining water for domestic use - and this introduces another problem which is not insurmountable.

Grazing, also for domestic animals, must be taken into consideration.

Transport and marketing facilities must be carefully studied.

All these details are dealt with in succeeding paragraphs.

2. Geographical and Geological

A brief description of the country will be of interest in considering a plan of absorbing surplus populations.

Sinai, for the most part is a wilderness of little use other than for strategic purposes in the defence of Egypt from the East.

/In

In the north, a sand sea extending along the coast from near Port Said to beyond El Arish, and some 25 to 30 kilometers in depth, renders this area useless for any development. A similar condition applies to the strip of country lying between the Suez Canal and the mountains some 30 kilometers to the East, with the exception of certain areas adjacent to the Canal itself.

In the south on the plateau of the Gebel Khamma (limestone) and in the granite mountains lying between that plateau and the tip of Sinai the country is incapable of any development in the agricultural sense, apart from some good grazing in some of the wadis.

It is in central Sinai, however, that geographical and other conditions lend themselves to possible agricultural schemes.

Central Sinai is for the most part a gravel plain, with outcrops of limestone and sandstone mountains of considerable size. The whole area is cut up by innumerable dry wadi beds which are all liable to flood during the winter months.

A glance at the map attached to this paper will show that practically the whole area is drained by the Wadi El Arish into which many subsidiary wadis drain from both East and West. The catchment area is vast, and all precipitation of rain in that area must eventually find its way into the main valley of the Wadi El Arish and thence into the sea at El Arish itself. There are no other drainage outlets from Central Sinai to the Mediterranean Sea other than this Wadi.

In certain localities along the line of the Wadi El Arish successions of floods have deposited silt in low lying areas - some of considerable acreage.

These areas lend themselves readily to cultivation in years of good rains, and could be irrigated from the main wadis during periods of flooding.

3. Climate and Rainfall.

Generally speaking the climate of Sinai is not severe. Except for an occasional "Khamsin" in spring, when the temperature is very high and conditions unpleasant owing to wind driven sand and dust, and for short periods in the

winter when cold winds accompany the sporadic rain storms, the climate is quite pleasant.

In summer, the days are warm and nights pleasantly cool. A steady breeze blows most days from the north.

In winter the days are cool and nights very cold.

Rain occurs during the period November - April, and very heavy local precipitation may be experienced. This is usually accompanied by violent thunder storms and cold winds. They are of short duration and followed by spells of cool dry weather.

No matter where such storms occur in Central Sinai, the resultant flood must pass into the Wadi El Arish eventually.

Certain localities in the Wadi El Arish may receive little or no precipitation during the season, but through those localities the wadi will carry the flood waters of storms occurring 50 or 100 miles away.

Rain gauges were, and presumably still are, maintained at isolated police posts, but there were never enough to cover the whole area adequately, with the result that no indication of average rainfalls could be kept. It would be safe to say, however, that a total average of 8" p.a. is a fair assessment.

4. Subsoil water and storage.

Apart from the necessity of ensuring adequate heads of water for seasonal irrigation the question of water for domestic purposes throughout the year is equally important.

Subsoil water from wells is obtainable in many localities along the line of the Wadi El Arish and tributary wadis. Wells, where they exist, are primitive, and supply the needs of the arabs who camp at certain seasons in the area.

At very little expense, these wells could be cleaned and properly lined, while further wells could be constructed where necessary.

The water is comparatively sweet, and is found at depths varying from 15 to 60 feet. The average depth is probably 30 feet.

In Roman times the system of rain water storage was resorted to, and several old cisterns have been cleaned out and restored to use. These cisterns were no doubt used for storing water for military purposes, as they are found mostly near road junctions on the main tracks through the country.

One such cistern was discovered in 1938, and reconstructed at the fork roads some 60 kilometers east of Suez at Sudr El Heltan. This cistern holds 1600 tons (approx. 400,000 gallons) when full and has proved of great assistance to arabs grazing their flocks in that area. The water lasts throughout the dry season.

These cisterns are sited in such positions as to collect water during rains from a surface catchment area, or at the edge of a torrent bed in rocky ground where the flood can be directed into them by a simple conduit.

The openings into these ancient cisterns are small, and just sufficient for water to enter and be discharged by bucket and rope when required.

These cisterns proved so useful that I constructed numerous other small ones at selected sites, by the simple process of building concrete tanks underground.

Some Roman cisterns were sited at a considerable distance from the main tracks, and adjacent to cultivable areas, which points to the fact that the water stored in them was used by tillers of the soil, and today they are used for the same purpose, having been cleaned and restored.

In the Valley of the Wadi El Arish, in its lower reaches, another source of good water was disclosed in 1937.

Ancient writers describing campaigns which were fought in the Near East, and involved the movement of considerable forces along the Northern littoral of Sinai referred to the

"River of Egypt" (the Wadi El Arish) as a flowing stream with gravel bottom.

Today there is no gravel to be found on the surface, and the seasonal floods flow over a muddy bed.

The Western bank of the Wadi is fairly steep with sand dunes driven up by the prevailing N.W. winds, and storms from the West.

Through the course of centuries this movement has gradually covered up the old river bed, and the present flood channel is higher and further to the East.

On the assumption that the old river bed existed under ground and somewhat to the West of the present water course, I instituted a series of experimental bore holes astride the main course extending to the West.

These experiments were wholly successful, and the gravel bed was found at a depth of approximately 85 feet below the surface, and close to the present water course.

From samples brought up by the drill, it was ascertained that the depth of gravel in the centre of the underground river bed was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards gradually lessening towards the outer edges, and that the average width of the bed was some 150 yards.

This underground river flows today, and the supply from the bore holes subsequently made is apparently unlimited.

During the late war I was able to give this information to the Royal Engineers, and two military bore holes were constructed which supplied unlimited water to military camps at El Arish, in addition to supplying water for the railway.

Similar conditions apply at Abu Aweigila, where the main tarvac road crosses the Wadi El Arish some 45 kilometers to the South. Here the R.Es. put down bore holes and established one of the biggest watering points in the Near East.

The question of water for domestic purposes is not insurmountable, given the necessary funds for development,

and can be summed up as follows; a) The upper reaches of the Wadi El Arish and down as far as El Ruafa can be supplied by shallow wells drawing off subsoil water and cisterns constructed as suitable points.

b) The lower reaches provide facilities for drawing artesian water through construction of bore holes.

5. Areas possible to develop

For purposes of quick reference, an over-lay map is attached to this paper. This over-lay is taken from, and should be used in connection with, the Ordnance Survey map, Asia, 1 : 1,000,000 Sheet H.56 (Cairo).

Areas which could be developed for agricultural purposes are marked in brown and yellow, and fall into two distinct categories - those depending solely on rainfall and those depending on artificial irrigation combined with rainfall.

The first category marked in brown verticle lines comprises lands which lie outside the basin of the Wadi El Arish - chiefly in the triangle El Arish-Rafa-Ajua Hafir. In this area the soil in places closely resembles that of the Gaza plain in S. Palestine. Crops are entirely dependant on the amount of rainfall precipitated during the winter months.

Rainfall, however, varies from year to year, and is usually adequate to guarantee good harvests of barley and wheat as a spring crop, and maize and watermelons as summer crops, but in years when rainfall is light the crops are poor.

These lands, like all lands in Sinai, are the property of the Government, but families have, through the course of years, obtained grazing and cultivation rights. Most of these families belong to nomads of the Rimilat and Terrabin tribes, and occupy their sites only during the ploughing and harvest seasons. A few sedentary arabs from El Arish and Rafa, however, remain permanently in the area in the neighbourhood of Rafa where they have sunk wells, and developed fruit and vegetable gardens as well as fields

for tillage.

This triangle, particularly in the North, has great possibilities for further development, but requires organisation.

In the North there is abundant water underground at no great depth, as is evidenced by the results of the few enterprising natives who have sunk bore holes in recent years, and by the work done during the war by the army, which maintained a large Ordnance Depot at Rafa.

The question of re-allotment of lands in this area is not a matter of great difficulty, as the tribal families who have the cultivation rights, as mentioned previously, only cultivate a very small portion of the areas over which they claim these rights.

The development of this area will primarily depend on extent to which water can be obtained from underground sources, and the extent to which the Government of Egypt is willing to go in the question of land re-settlement.

Basing my calculations on the situation as I knew it up to 1946, I would estimate that this area, properly developed, could claim some 12,000 acres of cultivable land, over and above that already developed, and that given 12 acres to an average family of 5 persons, 1000 families could be accommodated.

Turning now to the second category - those lands lying in the basin of the Wadi El Arish, these are marked in yellow horizontal lines.

The soil is a mixture of light clay and sand, brought down the wadis as silt by periodic flooding through the ages.

The tribes which have the cultivation rights in these areas are very thin on the ground, and only work a very small portion of the lands fit for cultivation. In fact, owing to the innate laziness of the bedouin, he will only cultivate enough for the barest necessities of life.

A few sedentary natives from El Arish, however, go in for more intense cultivation, and sell their crops on the open market.

That there is ample room for such expansion in agriculture in these areas is abundantly evident, but this can never be achieved without adequate backing and a sound scheme for such development.

The natives, themselves, being poor and lacking in any idea of producing more than their immediate needs, cannot be expected to do more than they have already done on their own initiative.

As in the Rafa triangle, here again development depends on the extent to which water can be obtained, both from flood waters in the wadis and from underground, and the extent to which the Government are willing to tackle the question of land re-settlement.

As regards water, I propose to tabulate the areas from North to South and give a brief outline as to how these could be irrigated and the approximate areas.

1. The Valley of the Wadi El Arish from El Deiga and Ruafa Dams to the sea.

Irrigation water for main crops from the waters impounded by these two dams and fed through conduits and irrigation channels.

Water for domestic purposes and development of fruit and vegetable gardens from artesian water through bore holes and pumps, as referred to in Para 4.

Estimated area which could be brought under cultivation is approximately 30,000 acres.

2. The Valley of the Wadi El Arish and tributaries below Haroun and down to El Deiga.

Irrigation from semi-permanent dams at suitable points to divert the floods on to the lands required.

Water for domestic purposes from shallow wells at points where

/obtainable

obtainable and from cisterns as described in Para 4.

Estimated area which could be brought under cultivation is approximately 35,000 acres.

3. The Valley of the Wadi El Arish and tributaries above Haroun.

Conditions similar to No. 2.

Estimated area which could be brought under cultivation is approximately 10,000 acres.

The total area in this second category which could be usefully developed is therefore approximately 75,000 acres.

Taking the areas already occupied or cultivated as 25,000, this leaves 50,000 for further development.

It would be imprudent to attempt any close populating of a country where conditions are not fully guaranteed, and therefore to allot less than 20 acres to a family would not be wise.

On this basis 2,500 families of an average of 5 persons could be accommodated.

This then gives us a grand total for both categories of 5,500 families or approximately 17,500 persons.

6. Grazing.

Camels, goats and sheep form an important part of the economy of all Arabs, and therefore when contemplating the populating of semi-desert areas, consideration must be given to the all important subject of grazing.

Unfortunately both camels and goats are inveterate destroyers of vegetable growth - not so much because of the bulk they eat, but for the reason that quality takes first place. Goats are the worst offenders and will seek out and crop off all young shoots which if left untouched would develop into substantial growth. The numbers of animals per family would have to be limited to such a degree as to ensure sufficient food throughout the year.

Generally speaking grazing in any form is confined to the wadi beds and the innumerable small watercourses feeding these wadis. In places these watercourses are so numerous as to give the impression, from a distance, of a plain covered with green. In most areas, however, the country outside the main wadi beds consists of gravel plain.

In years of good general rains the whole country will be carpeted with green which lasts only a few weeks on the plain but persists in the wadis for several months. Such rains, also, give an impetus to the innumerable species of desert shrubs which grow along the edges of wadi beds, and off which animals browse for the remainder of the year.

In years of light or local rains the grazing is poor but sufficient. At such times the Arabs usually move their animals to areas which have been more fortunate.

If careful consideration is paid to the minimum number of animals essential per family, the country could carry their requirements.

7. Transport and Marketing.

The areas under review are well found with numerous well worn camel tracks, while several fair motor tracks (apart from those shown on the map) link up with such centres as Hassana, Nekhl and Gasseima.

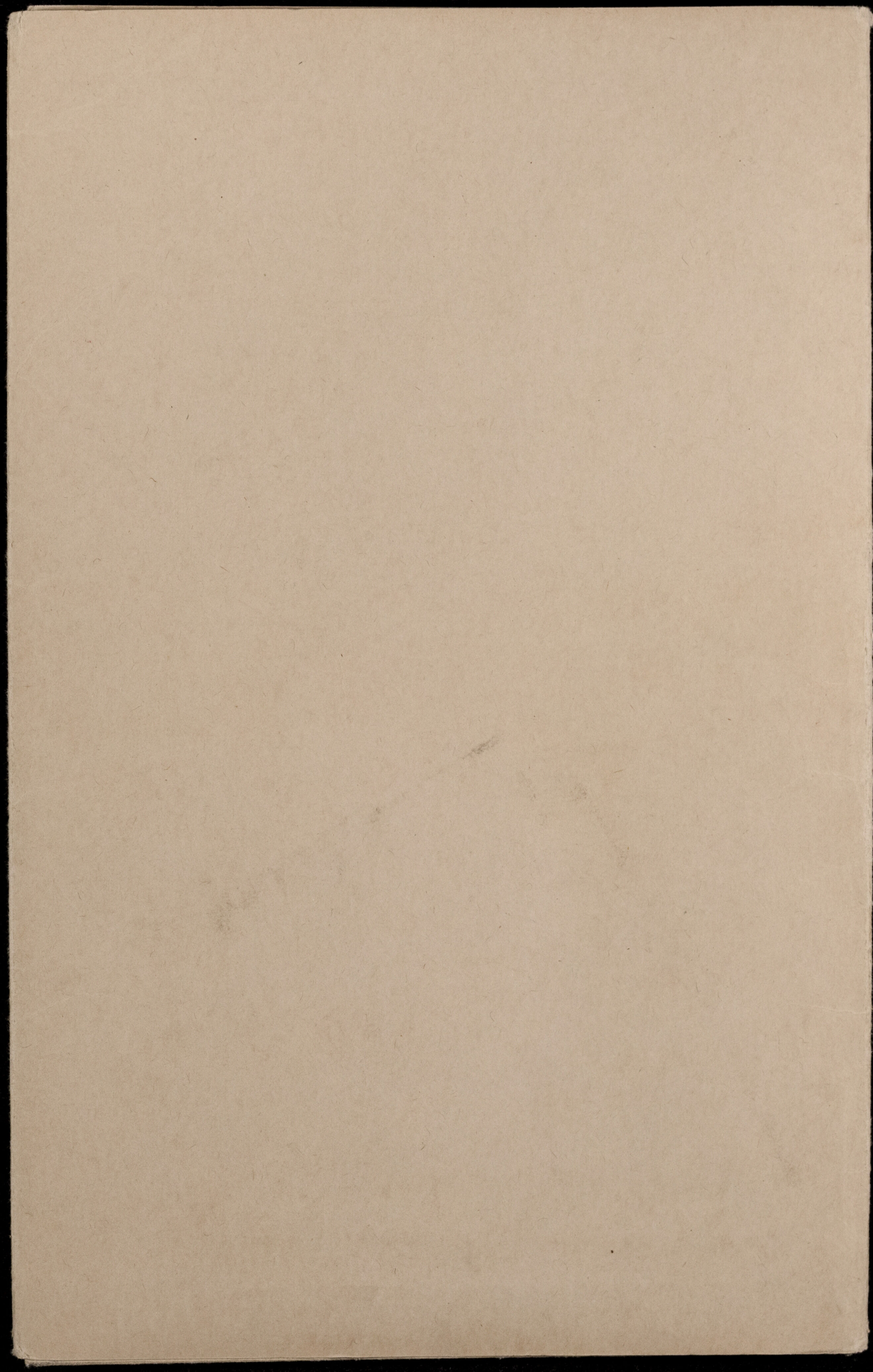
For purposes of facilitating the marketing of crops grown in these areas it would be necessary to organise collecting centres at selected points, as is done now on a small scale. The transport from the land to such centres would be easily carried out by camel.

Deliveries from centres to El Arish (Railway) would best be carried out by motor transport for which good roads already exist.

8. Conclusion.

That there is the possibility of accommodating some 3,500 families in the Eastern Areas of Sinai there is no doubt. Such a scheme, however, will require whole-hearted participation by the Egyptian Government, in the first instance, and sufficient funds and backing to develop water supplies, both by erection of dams and canalising, and by boring and erection of pumps and cisterns.

The initial impulse to such a scheme would have to be organised and carried out by a selected body of men. Once the scheme has been launched the numbers could be substantially reduced and the majority of the members possibly from among the Arabs themselves.



Movement of Arab refugees from the Gaza area to Hebron via Israel; settlement of Palestine refugees from Gaza in Sinai. Code EE file 18211. 1950. MS Refugee Records from the General Correspondence Files of the Political Departments of the Foreign Office, Record Group 371, 1947-1970 FO 371/82256. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Refugees, Relief, and Resettlement, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IFKRZS536707613/RRRW?u=omni&sid=bookmark-RRRW&pg=12. Accessed 2 Jan. 2025.